



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 12, 2005

CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan
202-224-6167

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARDS PROVIDENCE OVER \$800,000

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The City of Providence will be the primary beneficiary of two grants totaling \$833,583, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs has notified Chafee that the Family Service of Rhode Island, Providence Safe Start program will receive \$420,000, while the City of Providence will be given the remaining \$413,583 for the Providence Police Department under the fiscal year 2005 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

As part of the Safe Start Promising Approaches project, Providence Safe Start will receive this funding to help implement collaborative cross-agency strategies which will effectively reduce children's exposure to violence, with a specific focus on families with children aged six or younger. The exposure to violence which is targeted includes both direct (child abuse, neglect) and indirect (witnessing domestic or community violence) victimization. The project facilitate critical partnerships among various agencies, including law enforcement and mental health, mental health and child development, medical services and mental health, as well as domestic violence services, child protective services, and the judiciary.

In addition, the Providence Police Department plans to use their award to accomplish several objectives which will enhance their effectiveness. Funds will be used for Department initiatives, technical assistance, training, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for various programs, including law enforcement, prosecution, prevention and education, as well as drug treatment and other rehabilitation programs.

"As Providence is one of the nation's best cities, we must not lose sight of keeping it one of America's safest, especially in residential communities that are often overlooked," said Senator Chafee. "With these awards, Providence Police Officers will be able to improve their operations and equipment, while also receiving help from many other agencies to reduce violence and the negative impact it has on young children," he continued.

####